

REMARKS

The Office Action, dated February 15, 2008, has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. The present amendment modifies claims 1, 7, 8, 39, 40, 43, 50, 51, 82, 88, 89, 120, 121, 123, 127, 128, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, and 166 all in accordance with the originally-filed specification. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-168 remain in this application, and claims 1, 39, 40, 43, 82 and 120 are in independent form. Applicant submits that the amended claims more clearly demonstrate the novel and non-obvious differences between the present invention and the cited prior art.

Amended Claims Discussion

The Applicant has carefully considered the references of the Examiner, as well as the telephone conference discussions of the Examiner on July 14, 2008. The Examiner indicated that the independent claims be amended to further clarify the role of the meeting planner client (or administrator) in terms of the relationship of the loading process of the program instructions at the central website server prior to any interaction of the role of the attendee client (emphasis added). Amended step a, with a new step b, now place such emphasis on the separate interaction of the role of the meeting planner client (or administrator) and the initial processes at the central website server by the virtual convention venue website program instructions for specifying a differentiated convention website, accomplished prior to any interaction and processing steps of the attendee client. Furthermore, step c is required to be performed only *after* performing the loading of the at least a portion of the plurality of (or the at least one) convention activity policies and the convention content information of step b. Process steps a. have been amended, and new process steps b. have been added to all independent claims depending on the appropriate form (i.e., plurality-basis form, means-basis language, or singular-basis forms). New step b of claims 1, 39, and 43 reads: “ b. loading, at the central website server by virtual convention venue website program instructions, at least a portion of the plurality of convention activity policies and the convention content information into at least one virtual convention venue database for specifying a differentiated convention website for the at least one convention from the plurality of conventions;”. Similarly, new step b of claim 40 appropriately deals

with the means-basis language, and new steps b. of independent claims 82 and 120 fittingly take care of singular-basis forms.

References to these new process steps b. can be found within the Applicant's published application US 2001/0014865 (hereinafter "application" or "specification"). In previously-filed responses in this application, which are incorporated by reference into this Amendment, Applicant has presented the terms used in new process steps b. - these include: "the central website server", "virtual convention venue website program instructions", "plurality of convention activity policies" or "at least one convention activity policy", "the convention content information", and "virtual convention venue databases".

For specifications in terms of this newly-claimed "loading" process within the new process steps b. - "at the central website server by virtual convention venue website program instructions" - please see column 13, paragraph [0181] of the Applicant's published application where we read: "The system then provides the meeting planner client 102 the dive-down program flow control to initially load and later change the control parameter rules and content information into the virtual convention venue databases 300 for each specific convention." (emphasis added). And at paragraph [0184] we similarly find: "The meeting planner services 810 program instructions provides the meeting planner client 102 the dive-down program flow control to initially load and later change the control parameter rules and content information into the virtual convention venue databases 300 for each specific convention." (emphasis added). Further references to such "loading" activity can be found at column 3, paragraphs [0032], [0033]; column 10, paragraphs [0148], [0154], [0156]; and, column 12, paragraphs [0172], [0176], and [0177]. References to "at least one virtual convention venue database" can be found throughout the specification and at paragraphs [0039] and [0045].

And for specifications in terms of the newly-claimed "for specifying a differentiated convention website" within the new process steps b., please see column 5, paragraph [0092] of the Applicant's published application where we read: "These program instructions 400 comprise the information input, processing and output procedures including but not limited to receiving queries, control parameters and content information from any of the three client types, processing in terms of differentiating and storing the information, and releasing appropriate and formatted information." And, review of FIG. 4 at arrow 400

illustrates five sitemap flow diagrams specifications of the 500, 600, 700, 800 and 900 “program instructions” on the central website server (200). Review of FIG. 8 at arrow 800, as well as the detailed specifications, provides significant support of the amended claims in general, and newly-claimed step b in particular with respect to the interaction of the role of the meeting planner client (or administrator) and the process at the central website server by the virtual convention venue website program instructions, again prior to any interaction of the role of the attendee client. Extensive specifications of the meeting planner client support-program instructions 800 are found at column 13, paragraphs [0181] through [0198] of the Applicant’s published application.

As a logical consequence of the newly-claimed step b added to independent claim 1, dependent claims 7 and 8 were accordingly amended to reflect the referenced step increase (i.e., from step b to step c; or, step c to step d). Similar amendments were made to dependent claims 50 and 51 of amended independent claim 43; to dependent claims 88 and 89 of amended independent claim 82; and finally, dependent claims 127 and 128 of amended independent claim 120.

With respect to the precise interaction of the attendee client, the Applicant has also modified all independent claims 1, 39, 40, 43, 82 and 120 to attend to the Examiner’s references and telephone conference discussions, and clarify the progression and separate-step role of the attendee client in “using the differentiated convention website” (emphasis added). The amended new step now places emphasis on this separate interaction of the attendee client and his or her process at the central website server by the virtual convention venue website program instructions “using the differentiated convention website”. This amended attendee process step (steps d of independent claims 1, 43, 82, and 120; and step e of independent claim 39) reads the same as follows (note steps d copied and pasted as the example): “[e]] d processing the selection at the central website server by the virtual convention venue website program instructions using ~~at least one convention activity policy to determine participation in convention activity and use of the convention content information in a virtual convention venue, a physical convention venue, or any combination thereof~~ the differentiated convention website; and”. Similarly, amended new step d of claim 40 appropriately deals with the means-basis language.

Specifications in terms of the attendee client now “using the differentiated convention website”, we again look to column 5, paragraph [0092] of the Applicant’s published application where we read: “These program instructions 400 comprise the information input, processing and output procedures including but not limited to receiving queries, control parameters and content information from any of the three client types, processing in terms of differentiating and storing the information, and releasing appropriate and formatted information. Described in simplest terms, the attendee client global searches and control program instructions 500 on the central website server 200 assists the attendee client 101 in determining what conventions are appropriate for their participation, “registering” and “attending” a convention in the virtual convention venue databases 300.” (emphasis added). Extensive specifications of the control program instructions 500 for the attendee are found starting at column 6, paragraph [0100] of the Applicant’s published application.

Dependent claim 121 has been amended to require that the at least one attendee client is a convention and visitor bureau host attendee client. Similarly, claim 123 has been amended to require that the at least one attendee client is a convention and visitor bureau employee attendee client. Support for these amendments is found at least in paragraph [0099] of the Applicant’s published application.

Dependent claims 159-164 have been fittingly amended to take care of singular-basis form of “at least one virtual convention venue database” now used in all amended independent claims. Again, references can be found throughout the specification and at paragraphs [0039] and [0045].

Finally, dependent claim 165 has been amended to read: “The method according to claim 43 120 wherein the at least one convention activity is at least one convention and visitor bureau activity.” And, dependent claim 166 has been amended to read: “The method according to claim 120 wherein the differentiated convention activity website is differentiated convention and visitor bureau activity website.” Convention and visitor bureau references can be found throughout the specification including FIG. 3, database 370; and at paragraphs col. 3, paragraph [0039] with “convention and visitors bureau (“CVB”) hosts databases”; at col. 5, paragraph [0085] and paragraph [0090]; col. 6, paragraph [0100]; and, col. 9, paragraph [0142].

These above amendments to the Applicant's claims are responsive to the Examiner's citations and comments, and further demonstrate the novel and non-obvious nature of the presently-claimed invention.

Double Patenting Rejection

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-164 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-42 of co-pending Application No. 09/869,513 to Applicant. Respectfully, Applicant again notes that this rejection is provisional, and therefore will address this matter when the asserted conflicting claims in the co-pending application have been patented.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1-164 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salesky et. al. (6,343,313) (hereinafter the Salesky patent). In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, as well as the following remarks, Applicant requests reconsideration of these rejections.

Further, the Applicant has carefully considered the references of the Examiner in light of the telephone conference discussions of the Examiner on July 14, 2008. Per the suggestion of the Examiner, the independent claims have been amended to further clarify the role of the meeting planner client (or administrator) in terms of the relationship of the initial loading and differentiating processes of the program instructions at the central website server - prior to any interaction of the role of the attendee client - thereby further distinguishing and separating the claims of the Applicant from the references and the decentralized synchrony processes of the Salesky system using the requisite (in all cases) relay and data block transformation software component.

In paragraph 7 of the present Office Action, the Examiner cited several references from the Salesky patent that allegedly suggest the features of the independent claims of the application. Almost all of the citations have been documented, addressed and argued in previously-filed responses in this application, which are incorporated by reference

into this Amendment. These points continue to be relevant and include at least the following: dissimilar elements and topologies, omission of the unique communicants' machines, dissimilar primary computer system applications, unsubstantiated use of terms, and unsuggested modification for electronic publishing. In the following paragraphs, the Applicant points out how the amended language of the claims further patentably distinguishes them from the references.

Although the communicant of the Salesky system starts as a web browser computer, as per the Examiner's first reference in paragraph 7 - and similarly referenced in expanded paragraphs 17. and 26. of the current Office Action - (browser col 8, lines 35-45), a first-step initialization is mandatory for processing at the Communications session server (CSS). Applicant has argued and precisely documented that, in all cases, the Salesky system first initiates a unique communicants machine for the conferee with a relay and data block transformation software component in full-time processing with and by the CSS (emphasis added). The subsequent references (column 29, lines 62-63 and col 30, lines 15-24, potential conferee) are directed solely to system server communication processes between the Meeting manager 32 process and the Server manager 36 process within and pertaining to the CSS, where "the 'communications server' connecting the 'source' and 'sink' client machines of the 'communicants' during a communication session" (col. 3, lines 56-58 of the Salesky patent).

The Applicant has carefully reconsidered the above references of the Examiner. Amended steps a. and b. attend to the Examiner's references and now involve the separate interaction role of the meeting planner client (or administrator) and the separate process at the central website server by the virtual convention venue website program instructions, prior to any interaction of the role of the attendee client (emphasis added). These steps are not comparable to the references of the Salesky patent that involve a combined 'source' and 'sink' client machines of the 'communicants' (emphasis added). Further, there is no specification, terms or process steps within the Salesky patent with respect to the amended process including "for specifying a differentiated convention website". Further, the CSS of the Salesky system is not comparable to the amended claims of the Applicant's invention where we find a differentiated convention website loaded, and later used, at the central website server with functional descriptive material – the convention activity policies and convention content information. Finally, the necessary specialized communicants

machines with the decentralized communication processing of the Salesky patent are omitted and not necessary in the Applicant's invention.

The Examiner's reference to (col. 9, lines 64-67, col. 30, lines 15-64) of the Salesky patent involves the decentralized synchrony processes in the system, with a relay and data block transformation software component. To further distinguish the Applicant's invention from the relay communication processes of the Salesky patent, the Applicant's new process step b and amended process step d make the distinctions of precise processing in terms of first loading at the central website server, by virtual convention venue website program instructions, convention activity policies and convention content information into at least one virtual convention venue database for specifying a differentiated convention website; and then, processing an attendee client selection at the central website server by the virtual convention venue website program instructions using the differentiated convention website. The amended claimed processes of the Applicant are significantly unlike the decentralized synchrony processes in the Salesky system referenced by the Examiner. Further, the references lack any suggestion that they can be modified in a manner required to meet the amended independent claims of the Applicant.

The Applicant has carefully considered Fig. 23 and related references of the Salesky patent in terms of the Applicant's invention in general, and the amended element and use language of the Applicant's claims in particular. At column 6, lines 61-62 of the Salesky patent we read: "FIG. 23 is a time vs. space diagram showing some typical applications of the present invention". And at column 35, lines 19-21 we find and read the only other reference in the Salesky patent with "One way of seeing the flexibility of the system is to refer to FIG. 23, where several applications covering different separations in time and space for the communicants are listed" (emphasis added). We note at this reference the plural use of "communicants". This reference appears directed to additional processes of tightly bound software to facilitate communicants' conferee-to-conferee communications, using the unique relay machines of the Salesky patent. These plural communicants processes of the Salesky system do not expressly or inherently use "policy" or "policies" and do not provide adequate basis to compare Fig. 23 to the Applicant's amended claims – where amended step a and a new step b place emphasis on the separate interaction of the role of the meeting planner client (or administrator) and the firstly processes at the central website server by the virtual convention venue website program instructions for specifying a differentiated convention

website, prior to any interaction of the role of the attendee client (emphasis added). Respectfully, Fig. 23 and the related references of the Salesky patent lack any suggestion that the material can be modified in a manner required to meet the amended claims of the Applicant. Further, the new step b process of loading, at the central website server by virtual convention venue website program instructions, the at least one convention activity policy and convention content information into at least one virtual convention venue database for specifying a differentiated convention website patentably distinguishes this process from references (fig 1, col 24, lines 66-67 – col 35, lines 1-10, and col 29, lines 34-37, several meetings).

The Examiner's reference to (17, 15, fig 2, col 8, lines 34-41) of the Salesky patent is directed at locator services prior to connecting to Conference server 14, where we continue and find at lines 42-43: "allows the attendee client conferencing software to start and to connect to conference server 14 itself". This is a two-step process in the Salesky system with the locator services, followed by the connection to the CSS. Applicant's amended steps within all independent claims further distinguish new terms and processes from this reference; as noted above, amended step a and a new step b now include the separate interaction of the role of the meeting planner client (or administrator) and the firstly processes at the central website server by the virtual convention venue website program instructions for specifying a differentiated convention website, prior to any interaction of the role of the attendee client (emphasis added). Also, Applicant's claim process of "receiving at the central website server from the at least one attendee client with a web browser computer" further and clearly distinguishes this process from this reference in that the incorporated terms "at the central website server" specifies a process wholly occurring "at the central website server" which is also patently different than the locator services noted in the Salesky system.

Next, the Examiner references (fig 23, col 4, lines 30-44) in addition to the reference (to determine that a client has sufficient computing resources requires processing of control parameters at the time of setup keys can be specified, col 2, lines 7-15; col 2, lines 66-67; col 3, lines 1-23; lines 50-58) (emphasis added). All independent claims have been amended with the Applicant's amended new step b and steps c and d that distinguishes new terms and processes from this reference. Respectfully, these references are not comparable with the claims of the Applicant – there is no such communication-handshake processing in

the Applicant's system where the meeting planner client or the attendee client use such "setup keys." The amended claimed processes of the Applicant patentably distinguishes them from the key-to-connect processes in the Salesky system. When the attendee client arrives at the claimed invention of the Applicant, he/she has no key with them.

Next, the Examiner references (17, 14, fig 2 and fig 23, col 7, lines 10-20; col 8, lines 34-45, server provides information that allows attendee client conferencing software to start and connect to the conference). These references also pertain to the communications session handshake and the unique relay process of "Commands", "Pointer position", "Screen updates" and "Other services" of the Salesky system. All independent claims have been attended to with the Applicant's amended new step b and steps c and d which includes terms and processes that clearly distinguish such from the specialized-relay-process content information such as "Commands", "Pointer position", "Screen updates", and "Other services," which are passed through the CSS from-and-to the unique communicants machines for the conferees.

Finally, within paragraph 7 of the Office Action the Examiner has noted a motivation of "electronic publishing of a website for a specific event for a predetermined period." The Salesky patent lacks any suggestion of any electronic publishing, or loading or using a "differentiated convention website". The present invention is directed to the technology behind how the meeting planner client can via virtual convention venue website program instructions, load a relational database with at least one convention activity policy and convention content information for specifying a differentiated convention website without any web-page-publishing or website programming skills. And how the virtual convention venue website program instructions use such a differentiated convention website. The database design and computer programming supporting the processes of receiving, loading and using such a convention activity policy and convention content information are novel and requires nonobvious database fields and relationships, and processing steps.

CONCLUSION

The claimed invention solves many fundamental problems and introduces functions missing in early website work and patents, and is a significant contribution to the state of the art. For the foregoing reasons, none of independent claims 1, 39, 40, 43, 82 and 120, as amended, are anticipated by or rendered obvious over the prior art of record, whether used alone or in combination. In particular, none of the Salesky patent nor any of the prior art of record teach or suggest the method and system for conducting a convention, as specifically set forth in these claims. There is no suggestion in any of the references cited by the Examiner to combine these references in a manner that would render the invention, as claimed, obvious. Reconsideration of the rejection of independent claims 1, 39, 40, 43, 82 and 120 is respectfully requested.

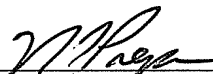
Claims 2-38 and 159 depend either directly or indirectly from and add further limitations to independent claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with independent claim 1. Claims 41 and 42 depend directly from independent claim 40, and are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with independent claim 40. Claims 44-81 and 160 depend either directly or indirectly from and add further limitations to independent claim 43, and are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with independent claim 43. Claims 83-119, 161 and 162 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 82, and are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with independent claim 82. Claims 121-158, 163 and 164 depend either directly or indirectly from and add further limitations to independent claim 120, and are believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed hereinabove in connection with independent claim 120. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-38, 41 and 42, 44-81, 83-119 and 121-164 is respectfully requested.

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For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes that claims 1-168 are patentable over the cited prior art and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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